IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, ¶008:

[008]   In one embodiment, the present invention enables the use of a wireless communications device to scan barcodes appearing on products and generate a transaction at a remote site for purchase of the product. Once the transaction is complete, the user is billed for the product and the product is mailed to the user. Conversely, the product information may be used to perform price comparison when browsing items within a store. ~~Alternatively, the teachings of the present invention may be used to implement~~ In an alternative embodiment, a mobile marketplace may be implemented, which can create both cash, as well as credit card transactions, for purchase of items and make modifications to inventory, which track the various sales of products.

On page 2, ¶009:

[009]   ~~Advantages of the invention include providing users~~ In one embodiment, users are provided with the capability to implement product replenishment at a verified lowest price. In addition, price comparisons may be used in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, as well as the enablement of a mobile marketplace. Moreover, the present invention may simply be used to track desired products or for providing additional product information.

On page 5, ¶0023:

[0023]   ~~The present invention overcomes one or more of~~ In one embodiment, the problems in the existing art described above are overcome by providing a method and apparatus for automated remote data collection of product information using a standard communications device. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the ~~present invention~~ described

embodiments. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the ~~present invention~~described embodiments may be practiced without some of these specific details. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid obscuring the details of the ~~present invention~~described embodiments.

On page 5, ¶0024:

[0024]   In ~~an~~ one embodiment, the methods ~~of the present invention~~ described are embodied in machine-executable instructions. The instructions can be used to cause a general-purpose or special-purpose processor that is programmed with the instructions to perform the methods of the present invention. Alternatively, the methods of the present invention might be performed by specific hardware components that contain hardwired logic for performing the methods, or by any combination of programmed computer components and custom hardware components.

On page 5, ¶0025:

[0025]   ~~The present invention~~One embodiment may be provided as a computer program product which may include a machine or computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which may be used to program a computer (or other electronic devices) to perform a process according to the present invention. The computer-readable medium may include, but is not limited to, floppy diskettes, optical disks, Compact Disc, Read-Only Memory (CD-ROMs), and magneto-optical disks, Read-Only Memory (ROMs), Random Access Memory (RAMs), Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (EPROMs), Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (EEPROMs), magnetic or optical cards, flash memory, or the like.

On page 5, ¶0026:

[0026]   Accordingly, the computer-readable medium ~~includes~~ may include any type of media/machine-readable medium suitable for storing electronic instructions. Moreover, the present invention may also be downloaded as a computer program product. As such, the

program may be transferred from a remote computer (e.g., a server) to a requesting computer (e.g., a client). The transfer of the program may be by way of data signals embodied in a carrier wave or other propagation medium via a communication link (e.g., a modem, network connection or the like).

On page 6, ¶0028:

[0028]   One or more users 104 (104-1, . . ., 104-N) each have a communications device 110 that is connected to the communications network 102. In ~~accordance with the teachings of the present invention~~one embodiment, a user 104 can transmit audio tones of a scanned retail product barcode via the communications device 110, which is received by the transaction server computer 300 via a communication interface 308. As described in further detail below, the transaction server computer 300 ~~can~~may then decode the audio barcode tones, collect relevant product data and process the product data in accordance with a user instruction.

On page 6, ¶0029:

[0029]   The communications network 102 may generally refers to any type of wire or wireless link enabling the transmission of voice data such as, but not limited to, a public switched telephone network, a wireless communications network, a local area network, a wide area network, a combination of network or the like. The communications devices 110 generally refer to any type of device capable of transmitting audio barcode signals scanned by a user and providing the audio barcode tone signals to a destination via a communications network, such as the communications network 102. In ~~an~~one embodiment ~~of the present invention~~, the communications network 102 is a wireless communications network and the communications device 110 is a cellular phone.

On page 6, ¶0030:

[0030]   Referring now to FIG. 2, modification of a standard communications device 110 in order to implement barcode scanning, in accordance with ~~an~~one embodiment ~~of the present~~

invention, is depicted. The communications device 110, as depicted in FIG. 2, is, for example, a wireless cellular phone, as known to those skilled in the art. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the ~~present invention is~~ described embodiments are not limited to wireless cellular phones and can include any wireless communications device, such as a personal data assistant (PDA), a computer, a standard telephone with a wireless headless or the like. Also, the cellular phone 110 includes an earphone/microphone jack 112, as well as a voice transmitter 122 and a voice speaker receiver 114.

On page 7, ¶0031:

[0031]   In ~~order to implement the teachings of the present invention~~one embodiment, a barcode wand 150 is attached to the earphone jack 112 of the cellular phone 110. The barcode wand 150 includes a universal adapter cord 166 that plugs into the earphone jack 112 of the cellular phone 110. The cord 166 also includes an earpiece 168. The barcode wand 150 further includes an infrared (I/R) emitter 154 for illuminating a retail product barcode 162 of a product 160. Retail product barcodes include, for example, three of nine barcodes, ISBN barcodes, and the like. An I/R receiver 152 reads the illuminated barcodes through a lens 156 in order to generate an optical barcode signal 216, which is read by the microprocessor 200.

On page 7, ¶0032:

[0032]   The barcode wand 150 further includes a read/transmit button 158 for implementing barcode wand 150 read mode and transmit mode, as described in further detail below. The barcode wand 150 further includes button battery cells 164 for powering the barcode wand 150. ~~Consequently~~In one embodiment, once the I/R receiver 152 provides the optical barcode signal to the microprocessor 200, the microprocessor 200 converts the optical barcode signal into audio barcode tones to form an audio barcode signal, as ~~will be~~ described in further detail below.

On page 7, ¶0033:

[0033] The audio barcode signal, or audio barcode tones, 220 are then transmitted via the cord 166 to the microphone jack 112 of the cellular phone 110. Thus, using the barcode wand 150, a user can scan barcodes 162 of various products 160 and is able to hear a beep for each validly scanned barcode using the earpiece 168. Using the read/transmit button 158, the user can scan various product barcodes 162, which are stored by the microprocessor 200, in what ~~is~~ may be referred to as "read mode".

On page 10, ¶0041:

[0041] Referring now to FIG. 6, the communications interface 308, as depicted in FIG. 5, is now further illustrated in accordance with ~~an exemplary~~ one embodiment ~~of the present invention~~. The communications interface 308 ~~includes~~ may include a modem 360, as well as the sound card 370. The modem 360 initially receives a call from a user 400. Once the call is accepted, the sound card may receive digital server responses 366 for verifying the identity of the user 400. The digital server responses 366 are converted into an audio server response 372 by the sound card 370, which is transmitted to the user 400 via the modem 360.

On page 10, ¶0043:

[0043] The audio barcode tones 220 are received by the modem 360 and transmitted to the sound card 370. The sound card 370 then converts the audio barcode tones 220 into digital barcode signals 368, which are transmitted to the CPU 302. The CPU 302 can then decode the digital barcode signals 368 and ascertain the product desired by the user 104. The transaction server computer 300 can then process the decoded product and relevant information in accordance with processing instructions received from the user 400. Finally, the server 300 can generate any required information based on the instruction provider by the user 104, which ~~is~~ may be converted into a WAV file by the sound card 370 and transmitted to the user 104. Procedural methods for implementing ~~the teachings of the present invention~~ one or more embodiments are now described.

On page 10, ¶0044:

[0044] Referring now to FIG. 7, a method 700 is depicted for enabling remote product data collection in accordance with ~~the teachings of the present invention~~one embodiment, for example, in the remote product data collection system 100, as depicted in FIGS. 1 and 5. At process block 502, a user 104 establishes a connection with the transaction server computer 300. At process block 506, in response to a user connection request, the transaction server computer 300 establishes a connection with the user 104 using the user verification procedures 322. At process block 530, scanned audio barcode tones are transmitted to the transaction server computer 300. At process block 550, the transaction server computer 300 receives scanned product barcodes from the user 104.

On page 12, ¶0048:

[0048] Referring now to FIG. 10, additional method methods for transmitting scanned barcodes to the transaction server computer of method 530 are illustrated. At process block 532, the user 104 will scan a standard retail product barcode, for example as depicted in FIG. 2. The barcode wand 150 ~~will~~may convert the three of nine product barcode, ISBN product barcode or the like, into a series of barcode tones at process block 534. The conversion of the optical barcode signals read by the I/R receiver 152 is necessary for transmitting the audio barcode tones 220 via a wireless communications device, such as a cellular phone. Once conversion of the audio barcode tones 220 is complete, at process block 536, the barcode wand 150 stores the audio barcode tones 220. At process block 538, the barcode wand 150 determines whether it is in "read" mode or "transmit" mode. When the barcode wand is in "read" mode, methods 532 through 536 are repeated. Otherwise, at process block 540, the stored audio barcode tones are transmitted to the transaction server computer 300 via the cellular phone 110.

On page 12, ¶0050:

[0050] Once decoded, the digital product barcodes can then be interpreted by the transaction server computer 300 ~~in order~~to determine the desired product and process the

product as follows. At process block 564, the transaction server computer 300 provides the user 104 with an acknowledgement of the scanned product. At process block 566, the transaction server computer requests product information processing instructions from the user 104. In one embodiment, the user can provide the processing instructions either by entering numbers on the cellular phone keypad or by providing the transaction server computer 300 with a voice request. At process block 570, the transaction server computer 300 processes the product information in accordance with the product processing instruction received from the user 104.

On page 12, ¶0051:

[0051] Finally, referring to FIG. 12, additional method methods are depicted for performing the product processing methods of method 570 as depicted in FIG. 11, according to one embodiment. At process block 572, the transaction server computer 300 determines whether the price comparising instruction was received. At process block 590, when the comparison instruction was received, the transaction server computer 300 performs price comparising instruction procedures 330, as described with reference to FIG. 5 to determine the lowest price available for the product.

On page 14, ¶0056:

[0056] In addition, although an embodiment described herein is directed to a remote data location system, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the teaching of the ~~present invention~~ various embodiments can be applied to other systems. In fact, systems for identification of products via encoded symbols are within the teachings of the ~~present invention~~ various embodiments, without departing from the scope, ~~and spirit of the present invention~~ as defined by the attached claims. The embodiments described above were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles ~~of the invention and its~~ practical applications of a remote data location system. These embodiments were chosen to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the ~~invention and~~ various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

On page 14, ¶0057:

[0057] It is to be understood that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of various embodiments ~~of the present invention~~ have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of various embodiments of the invention, this disclosure is illustrative only. In some cases, certain subassemblies are only described in detail with one such embodiment. Nevertheless, it is recognized and intended that such subassemblies may be used in other embodiments of the invention. Changes may be made in detail, especially matters of structure and management of parts within the principles of the ~~present invention~~ <u>described embodiments</u> to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

On page 15, ¶0059:

[0059] Accordingly, although ~~the present invention~~ <u>one embodiment</u> has been described with reference to a remote product data collection system, it is not limited to performing data collection services over the telephone. The ~~present invention~~ <u>embodiments described</u> can be used for other electronic commerce purposes, other commodities, other types of products, and other types of services not explicitly listed. In addition, communications devices within the contemplation of the ~~present invention~~ <u>various embodiments</u> include systems for wireless communications or any network capable of transmitting audio data. Moreover, performance, by a human operator, of the data collection procedures of the present invention is within the contemplation of the ~~present invention~~<u>described embodiments</u>.

On page 15, ¶0060:

~~[0060]   The present invention provides many advantages over conventional systems.~~
~~Advantages of the invention include providing users with the capability to implement product~~
~~replenishment at a verified lowest price. In addition, price comparisons may be used in~~
~~accordance with the teachings of the present invention, as well as the enablement of a mobile~~

~~marketplace. Moreover, the present invention may simply be used to track desired products or for providing additional product information.~~